

San Joaquin River and Tributaries

Stanislaus River – Stanislaus County

There are about 16 gravel pits on the Stanislaus River that create instream ponds. The ponds provide habitat for predatory fish such as largemouth and smallmouth bass, which prey on juvenile salmon. The juvenile salmon migrating downstream become disoriented in the slow waters of the ponds and become extremely vulnerable to predation.

Structure Name	RM	Description
Oakdale Recreation Area 1	33.9	Pit
Oakdale Recreation Area 2	34.2	Pit
Oakdale Recreation Area 3	34.4	Pit
Oakdale Recreation Area 4	34.7	Pit
Oakdale Recreation Area 5	34.9	Pit

In September 1996, the Willms Project was approved and was expected to cost \$2.7 million. It was to eliminate a 10.6-acre pond through which the Stanislaus River runs. The project included eliminating salmon-predator habitat, increasing salmon spawning and rearing habitat, improving the adult and juvenile salmon migratory pathway, improving flood plain dynamics by reconfiguring the channel to better conform to the present flow regime, and enhancing the riparian corridor. In March 1998, the project was stopped due to landowner concerns.

The Fish Passage Improvement Program is taking the lead to develop an Oakdale Recreation Pond gravel pit isolation/restoration project with the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program Fisheries Technical Working Group to address losses of juvenile fish migrating downstream. Site visits and coordination meetings to initiate project development have taken place since February 2001. Coordination and planning will include local area government staff, landowners, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, state Department of Fish and Game, San Joaquin District of the state Department of Water Resources, and the State Water Resources Control Board. Preliminary restoration design began in 2002 and an initial public workshop about the potential project was also held. Environmental documentation and permits will be obtained in 2003, and construction is planned for 2004. Cost estimates are not yet available.



For more information, contact:

- Glenda Marsh, Department of Water Resources. 1020 9th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814. (916) 651-9632. E-mail: gmarsh@water.ca.gov.
- Kevin Faulkenberry, DWR. 3374 E. Shields, Fresno, CA, 93726. (559) 230-3320. E-mail: faulkenb@water.ca.gov.
- Tim Heyne, Department of Fish and Game. (209) 853-2533. E-mail: theyne@dfg.ca.gov.
- Angie Wulfow, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (209) 881-3517. E-mail: angie.c.wulfow@usace.army.mil.